

**RESEARCH NOTE :**

## Development and standardization of attitude scale of women towards kitchen gardening

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**SUMMARY :** The study was conducted to develop and standardize the reliable and valid scale, to measure attitude of women towards kitchen gardening. Appropriate statistical methods 'scale product method' was used, which combines Thurston and Likert techniques. Twenty one statements were selected for judgment; a panel of 50 judges was requested to assign the score for each statement on five point continuum. Based on the scale (median) and Q values, eleven statements were finally selected to constitute attitude of women towards kitchen gardening.

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**KEY WORDS :**

Attitude, Kitchen gardening, Scale product method

It is worldly wisdom that we should eat our greens. That is the way to health, and if we grow our own greens, we will have health and happiness. Whenever you take up any creative activity you are bound to be happy, gardening included. Kitchen gardening adds so much interest to one's life. Women laid much emphasis on the importance of garden produce for good diet, well before doctors started advising us about vitamins, minerals, and fibre. Growing our salads using vegetables and having an occasional fruit tree to provide, lemons, mangos, and coconuts - the table will be very inviting with the occasional tomato, cucumber or lettuce picked minutes before eating. Nature is a SHE, none can match her in wrapping, preserving and presenting food. You will appreciate all these things when you are growing food yourself in your own

backyard. One more thing - you can be sure that they are free from all chemicals and poisons when you grow your own. You plant a good seed, provide organic manure and kitchen waste and water - that is all. No fertilizer, no poisonous insecticide, fungicides, viricides, bactericides, or weed killer. Any poison you put on your crop, you have to eat it yourself in the end. Just remember this simple truth. Just raise a good crop, share something with the birds and the beasts. Even when you buy produce, buy only that fruit or vegetable with a mark on it showing you that it was visited by an insect. It is your guarantee that it has been tested and found fit for your consumption. The more shiny and blemish free the produce, the more chance that they are loaded with residual poisons. Insects are nature's food tasters in this chemical infested agriculture. The manure of the kitchen garden

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can be supplemented by kitchen waste and sweepings.

To understand the feeling of the women towards such important component, there was no any well developed scale to study positive or negative disposition towards its utility. Considering this, the present study was planned to construct the scale to measure the attitude of women towards kitchen gardening.

In the present study, attitude is operationalized as positive or negative feeling of women towards the kitchen gardening. Among the techniques available 'scale product method' which combines the Thurstone's technique (1928) of equal appearing interval scale for selection of items and Likert's technique (1932) of summated rating for ascertaining the response on the scale as proposed by Eysenck and Crown (1949) was used.

### Statement collection :

The items of attitude scale are called as statements. In initial stage, 21 statements reflecting feelings of the women towards kitchen gardening were collected from relevant literature and discussion with experts of extension and horticulture discipline. The collected statements were edited according to the criteria laid down by Edward (1957) and then 21 statements were selected as they were found to be unambiguous.

### Statement analysis :

In order to judge the degree of 'Unfavorableness' to 'Favorableness' of each statement on the five point equal appearing interval continuum, a panel of judges was selected. Fifty slips of the selected statements were handed over to the experts connected with extension educational work. The judges were requested to judge

each statement in terms of their most agreement or most disagreement with the statements with the five equal appearing interval continuums. Out of these experts, all the experts returned the statements after duly recording their judgments and were considered for the analysis.

Determination of scale values

$$S = L + \frac{0.50 - \sum P_b}{P_w} \times i$$

Based on judgment, the median value of the distribution and the S value for the statement concerned were calculated with the help of the inter-quartile range ( $Q = Q_3 - Q_1$ ) for each statement was also worked out. Only those statements were selected whose median values were greater than Q value. When a few statements had the same scale values, the statements having lowest Q values were selected. Thurstone and Chave (Edwards, 1957) described another criteria in addition to Q as a basis for rejecting statement in scales constructed by the method of the equal appearing interval. Accordingly when a few items had the same scale values, the item having lowest Q values were selected. The final selected statement showing attitudes are given in Table 1.

### Reliability of the scale :

To know the consistency of the scale, reliability was worked out. The split-half technique was used to measure the reliability of the scale. Selected 11 attitudinal statements were divided into two halves with 6 (Six) odd and 5 (Five) even numbered statements. Each of the two sets was treated as separate scales having obtained two score, for each of the 20 respondents. Co-efficient of reliability between the two sets of score was calculated by Rulon's formula (Guilford, 1954), which was 0.85.

**Table 1: Final selected statements to measure attitude of the women towards the kitchen gardening**

Sr. No.	Statements	Scale value	Q value
1.	Kitchen garden provides an opportunity to make a positive environmental impact.	1.39	1.02
2.	I visualize limited scopes of kitchen gardening.	3.00	2.09
3.	Kitchen gardening provides opportunity to get fresh vegetables in all the seasons.	1.19	0.78
4.	I think kitchen gardening is tedious job.	3.76	1.45
5.	I think kitchen gardening helps in saving money.	1.71	0.89
6.	Kitchen gardening is hypocrisy than reality.	3.40	1.60
7.	Kitchen gardening is an ideal medium to give experience of nature to children.	1.64	1.01
8.	Kitchen gardening promotes inter-personal conflict among family members.	3.72	1.83
9.	In Kitchen garden helps in promoting family fitness.	1.88	1.03
10.	Kitchen garden promotes greenery near residential areas.	1.54	1.09
11.	Kitchen gardening is constructive approach to convert leisure time in to productive one.	1.82	1.08

**Validity of the scale :**

The validity of content of scale was examined by discussing with specialists of the extension and statistics. Specialists examined and realized appropriateness of the each statement to measure the feeling of women towards kitchen gardening.

**Administration of the scale (Scoring technique) :**

For application of the scale, the researcher can collect information against each 11 statements in five point continuum viz. 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Undecided', 'Disagree' and 'Strongly disagree' with weighted score of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for positive and reverse to negative statements.

**Conclusion :**

From the various methods available for constructing the attitude scale, scale product method' which combines the Thurstone's technique of equal appearing interval scale, for selection of items and Likert's technique of summated rating for ascertaining the response on the

scale as proposed by Eysenck and Crown was used to measure the attitude of women towards Kitchen Gardening.

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